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Church hosts drug education week

In support of the Church of Scientology's international war against drug abuse, the Church of Scientology of Nevada is hosting a "Drug Education Week" the first week of August. All the activities of the week are designed to inform citizens of Las Vegas truthfully and accurately of the consequences of taking drugs.

Estimates of the amount spent on illicit drugs alone in the U.S. range as high as $200 billion a year. According to the Federal Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, nearly 25 percent of high school students have tried cocaine, while 33 percent of high school seniors have used amphetamines. One national study showed that 60 percent of high school seniors reported illicit drug use.

"Our work has shown that education is a key factor in the prevention of drug abuse," said Rita Thompson. She cited the work of John Duff and Gene Chill, authors of the popular book, "The Truth About Drugs," as examples of Scientologists who are very serious about raising public awareness on the subject of drugs.

Duff has talked to more than 40,000 students, teachers and parents about drug abuse, refraining from horror stories and scare tactics and concentrating on the documented effect of what specific drugs can do to the human body.

L. Ron Hubbard in late 1979 developed a "Purification Program" which has since been completed by tens of thousands of persons all around the world, with close to 300 having participated in the program in Las Vegas.

"In the research on the Purification Program," Thompson said, "Hubbard found that certain chemicals became lodged in the fatty tissues of the body and can remain there for years, continuing to affect a person years after the drug use has been stopped or the chemical exposure has occured.

"Continued use or exposure increases the amount of buildup in the tissues."